

Mike Knoblock

Comments on:

Project 13: Improving the economic and environmental performance of the North American Automotive Industry Supply Chain

Basis for support of the project: "This program will serve as the basis of the CEC's next Operational Plan, which will set forth cooperative actions to protect and enhance the North American environment under priorities established by the CEC Council—the environment ministers or their equivalent of Canada, Mexico and the United States." This project would continue the efforts to identify develop and continue to provide a means to implement proven green initiatives within the North American automotive supply chain. Additionally, it would allow for expansion beyond the successful efforts of the Supplier Partnership Initiative in the United States into Canada and Mexico where many of the OEM's and their tiered suppliers already exist and do business.

Actually, expansion work had already begun for organizing these efforts in Canada and Mexico that were curtailed due to the economic downturn. This approach has been very successful in the U.S. over the last several years, despite the economic downturn, the OEMs and many of the Tier I companies continue to participate because they realize the value it brings for doing the right thing for the environment, but it also increases their potential to gain more business. This effort also supports a more unified and consistent approach to environmental initiatives that can improve the environment, and generate new business opportunities going forward within the North American continent.

Funding for this project is important because it can create a self sufficient process for "doing the business of the environment". It can promote the development of systems, tools and networks between various stakeholders where all parties can benefit in sustainable economic and environmental performance because it will make a better environment and opportunity for business. As a business that has business in all three countries, and who has participated and continues to participate in the Suppliers Partnership for the Environment Organization, we support the CEC to continue funding of this project to completion. It's good for the environment and it's good for business.